

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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 OMB-01 AID-05 /072 W
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P 200012Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0366

DEAHQS WASHDC PRIORITY

CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

ALL CONSULATES MEXICO BY POUCH

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SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY REPORT
 MAY 8-MAY 14, 1978, FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH MAY 19.

1. GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION STATISTICS FOR THE
 NINETEENTH WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW. FIGURES IN
 PARENTHESIS REFLECT CUMULATIVE TOTAL EFFECTIVE DECEMBER
 1977.

ERADICATION MAY 8-MAY 14, 1978

ZONES 5-9 3-4 1-2 TOTAL

A. POPPY FIELDS	73	1	0	74 (15,279)
B. HECTARES	6.77	.16	0	6.93 (1244)
C. MARIHUANA FIELDS	37	0	28	65 (2068)
D. HECTARES	1.35	0	1.48	2.83 (450)
E. MIXED FIELDS	1	0	0	1 (109)
F. HECTARES	.01	0	0	.01 (11)

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INTERDICTION MAY 8-MAY 14, 1978

- TOTAL THIS PERIOD CUMULATIVE TOTAL

A. KG. HEROIN	1.55	66.095
B. KG. OPIUM	4.63	263.611
C. KG. OPIUM SEED	4.25	64.226
D. HEROIN LABS	1	9

E. KG. COCAINE	.34	33.59
F. KG. MARIHUANA	3,101	267,693
G. KG. MARIHUANA SEEDS	5	1,181.937
H. KG. HASHISH	0	59.875
I. LITERS HASHISH OIL	0	.250
J. KG. PEYOTE	0	11.85
K. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS	0	1,511,105
L. ARRESTS-MEXICAN	91	1923
M. ARRESTS-U.S.	0	66
N. ARRESTS-OTHER	0	11
O. VEHICLES	19	300
P. WEAPONS	33	723
Q. AMMUNITION	4827	32,699
R. PESOS	4850	438,249
S. DOLLARS	8470	31,412
T. AIRCRAFT	1	24

2. ERADICATION STATISTICS FOR THE NINETEENTH WEEK OF 1978 HAVE BEEN COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD A TOTAL OF 74 POPPY FIELDS WERE DESTROYED IN THE 19TH WEEK AS COMPARED WITH 7 POPPY FIELDS DURING THE SAME WEEK IN 1977, AN INCREASE BY MORE THAN TEN FOLD. A TOTAL OF 6.93 HECTARES OF POPPIES WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 19TH WEEK OF 1978 AS COMPARED WITH 1.75 HECTARES DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977, AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 400 PERCENT. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE BASIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREND OF SMALLER FIELDS IN 1978 AS COMPARED TO 1977.

3. FIELD OPERATIONS:

A. ZONE 01, OAXACA: ZONE COORDINATOR INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THEY MADE THE TRANSITION TO MARIHUANA SPRAYING AS THE DROUGHT IS PARTIALLY BROKEN WITH HEAVY INTERMITTENT RAINS IN THE OAXACA VALLEY. EMBASSY NARCOTICS ADVISOR AROS ON THREE-DAY TDY WITH THE APPROVAL OF AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA AND FULLY COORDINATED WITH ZONE COORDINATOR ZAMORA-APAM. AROS IS MONITORING THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS AND INSPECTING THE DESIGNATED SITES FOR THE THREE ADVANCE BASES WHICH ARE MATIAS ROMERO, PLAYA VICENTE, AND PINOTEPA NACIONAL. ADDITIONALLY, AROS ENGAGED IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH LIC. ZAMORA-APAM ON THE PLANNING FOR IMMINENT MARIHUANA SPRAYING OPERATION WITH COLOR ADDITIVES.

B. ZONE 04, GUADALAJARA: AVIATION OPERATIONS ADVISOR CARSON WAS ON TWO DAY TDY TO MONITOR AND COORDINATE SLING RECOVERY OF CRASH-DAMAGED BELL 212, XC-BEA, IN TEQUILA SECTOR. RECOVERY SUCCESSFUL AND AIRFRAME NOW IN MAGDALENA FOR TRANSPORT TO MEXICO CITY BY TRUCK. (FYI: XC-BEA

CRASHED IN SEPTEMBER 1975 AND AIRFRAME WAS LEFT IN FIELD AFTER COMPONENTS REMOVED. MAINTENANCE ADVISOR SUGGESTED RECOVERY AS IT APPEARS PARTS OF AIRFRAME MAY BE USEABLE IN REPAIRING XC-GAB WHICH CRASHED IN NOVEMBER 1977.)

C. ZONE 06, CULIACAN: ON MAY 12, LIC. LOPEZ-GARZA, ZONE COORDINATOR, ISSUED ORDERS FOR ARREST OF A AERO SERVICES MODEL 206 HELICOPTER PILOT AND A MECHANIC FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA CONFIRMED THE ARREST OF BOTH PARTIES AND NOTIFIED

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EMBASSY HE PLANNED TO FLY TO CULIACAN ON MAY 17 TO LOOK INTO THIS AND OTHER UNRELATED MATTERS. THE SPECULATION ON THE ARRESTS INDICATES THE MECHANIC'S BROTHER-IN-LAW (LOCAL RESIDENT) WAS INVOLVED WITH A NARCOTICS GROUP IN CULIACAN AND MANAGED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE PILOT WHO AGREED TO TRANSPORT OPIUM GUM FROM CERTAIN AREAS IN ZONE 06 TO CULIACAN FOR DELIVERY TO A CLANDESTINE PROCESSING LABORATORY. EMBASSY WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL DETAILS UPON BAEZA'S RETURN.

AVIATION OPERATIONS ADVISOR CARSON AND DUFAU TRAVELED TO CULIACAN ON MAY 13, TO MONITOR AND ASSIST WITH THE ONGOING ROTARY WING AND FIXED WING PILOT TRAINING COURSES CONDUCTED BY AERO SERVICES INSTRUCTORS RELATED TO TRANSITION AND CHECK OUT FLIGHTS. AS PART OF THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, CARSON FEW ROTARY WING SUPPORT MISSIONS OVER TEN OF THE SECTORS IN THE VICINITY OF SAN JOSE AND CHOIX.

THEY SPOTTED TEN POPPY AND THREE MARIHUANA FIELDS IN THREE DAYS. SPRAYING OPERATIONS PRESENTLY CONSIST OF MOPPING UP CERTAIN PORTIONS OF PREVIOUSLY SPRAYED FIELDS OR SPRAYING SMALL FIELDS WHICH ESCAPED DETECTION. CARSON SUMMARIZES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT AERO SERVICES PILOTS COMPLAIN OF BOREDOM DUE TO THE INACTIVITY. SECTORS FLOWN CONSISTED OF 50,68,69,70,71, 72,79,80,8L AND 82.

D. ZONE 10, MEXICO CITY BASE: ON MAY 16, NASA TDY REPRESENTATIVE, MOONEYHAN, CONDUCTED A TWO-HOUR BRIEFING FOR AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HIS SENIOR STAFF, DETENAL/DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS ON THE FAVORABLE RESULTS OBTAINED FROM ANALYSIS OF DATA TAPES FROM E-18 BEECH MISSIONS OVER THE GROUND TRUTH AREA. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINT UNDERSCORED RELATED TO IDENTIFICATION OF A POPPY FIELD FROM 10,000 FEET WHICH MEASURED 0.006 OF AN ACRE. MOONEYHAN PROVIDED THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO MEET THE DELIVERY DATE OF THE INTERIM SENSING SYSTEM IN NOVEMBER, 1978. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO THE AG OFFICE INCLUDING A TRANSLATION OF THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS RELATED TO EQUIPMENT, INSTALLATIONS, TRAINING, AND ARRIVAL IN MEXICO TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS.

4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

A. TELECOMMUNICATIONS: AUTHORIZATION RECEIVED FROM S/NM TO PROCEED WITH SIGNING OF LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR DOLLARS 1.5 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL PLAN. ADVISORY STAFF, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS, HAVE JUGGLED PRIORITIES IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS LINK FOR TWO ADDITIONAL FIELD FORCES (200 FIELD UNITS OF SQUAD SIZE).

B. MAINTENANCE: ADVISOR KARMAN TRAVELED TO DALLAS/FT.WORTH TO MEET WITH WASHINGTON GROUP ON QUESTIONS RAISED AS RESULT OF BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON OVERRUN ON CRASH DAMAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPAIRS UNDER THEIR CONTRACT. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS VIEW THE ENTIRE SITUATION AS MISMANAGEMENT BY BHT HANDLING OF THE APPROPRIATED FUNDS. EMBASSY REQUESTS COPY OF FINAL REPORT PREPARED BY WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES AND FULL CONSULTATION BEFORE ANY DECISION MADE ON SOURCE OF FUNDS

TO DEFRAV OVERRUN.

C. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION ON E-SYSTEMS: OVERALL AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY TOOK A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE DURING THE RE-PORTING PERIOD TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF 71.4 PERCENT EFFECTIVE MAY 18. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED DRAFT CABLE ON THE REQUEST TO BRING DEFENSE CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SERVICE PLANT REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE (DCASPRO) FROM E-SYSTEMS, GREENVILLE, TEXAS, TO MEXICO CITY AND CULIACAN TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE TYPE AUDIT OF THE CONTRACTOR IN CONJUNCTION WITH DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY (DCAA). THE HEPATITIS OUTBREAK AT THE AG HANGAR IN MEXICO CITY APPEARS TO BE CONTAINED; HOWEVER, BOTH THE AG CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR AND E-SYSTEMS PROJECT MANAGER WERE OUT OF ACTION TEMPORARILY DUE TO THE INFECTION. TRAINING FACILITIES ARE COMPLETED AT THE RENOVATED FORMER AG HANGAR; TRAINING SCHEDULES NOT IMPLEMENTED AS EQUIPMENT STILL ARRIVING. THOMPSON

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